

Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

Boise, Idaho

August, 1999

Volume 3, Number 8

News

To facilitate getting the Idaho token catalog completed and in the hands of collectors, I must change my priorities. The publication of the **Idaho Trade Token Newsletter** is taking time from the catalog, so I will put this publication on hold at the end of this year until after the Idaho catalog is complete. Perhaps there will be some issues, but only to convey news to those who do not have e-mail. It seems that the most active of the Idaho collectors have an e-mail account and can keep in touch with the others via that route. As I have stated before, there are several ways of getting and sending "free" e-mail, even if you do not own a computer; if you want details, just let me know.

I will continue the **ITTN** through December, 1999. If you have been working up an article to be included, please get it to me before the end of November. I think you will agree that the **ITTN** is a good means of getting some in-depth token histories published, so I plan on it returning in some form after the Idaho catalog is out. Perhaps the **ITTN** could be the means to distribute new listings and historical updates to the catalog.

Wallace

The big news of July was our meeting in Wallace over the weekend of July 24. Those of you who didn't attend missed a very fun and educational occasion. I started north on Monday, stopping at county courthouses in Lewiston, Moscow, St. Maries, Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint, and Bonners Ferry before spending all day Friday in the Shoshone County courthouse at Wallace. Of the bunch, only the Bonner County records in Sandpoint proved disappointing.

We started arriving at the Wallace Inn about 6 p.m. on Friday. By 7 most of the attendees had checked in and were visiting in the lobby. We moved into the conference room and had dinner. Present (including those who joined us later) were Bob Berg, Mike Fritz, Ron Haberman, Glen and Carol Higley, Dan Lute, Dick Magnuson, Greg Manos, John Mutch, Dean Rasmussen, Herman Ronnenberg [author of **Beer and Brewing in the Inland Northwest: 1850 to 1950**, discussed in the August, 1997 issue of this newsletter], Dick Caron, owner of the Wallace Corner and Shoshone County collector, John Miller and his wife, Shoshone County postcard collector, Stan Shipiro of Kingston and Tom Mulvaney, Helena postcard dealer. Bob handed out some nice white on blue ball caps with "Idaho Token Collectors" (I am sure Bob is out some \$\$\$ for them - if you haven't done so already, why not slip him a token to add to his collection?) We had a nice meal, then adjourned for a few minutes while the room was cleared and we could fetch our tokens and related "stuff" which we showed and traded late into the evening.

On Saturday morning many of us met for breakfast in the hotel restaurant. Dick Magnuson had promised to lead a walking tour of downtown Wallace starting at 9:30, so we set off to meet him at the "Silver Corner". Sharp-eyed members of the group spotted the article about our gathering on the front page of the **Shoshone News-Press**, and most of us purchased a copy. From there we walked down 6th Street as Dick told us of the early history of Wallace, illustrating his talk with early photographs of the town and of the devastation caused by the 1890 fire. Several others joined in and with about 16 people in the group. Dick explained the

early economics and demographics of the area as we went past early rooming house and saloon sites. We continued around the block between Cedar, Bank, 6th and 7th Streets, adjourning near the Mining Museum. Joining us on the tour were Chuck Haywood, Spokane postcard dealer and Bill Farr, Spokane coin dealer, plus a young lady (whose name I didn't catch) who is with the Wallace historical trolley car tour.

We then carpooled up Burke Canyon, through the sites of Mace, Gem, Black Bear, Yellow Dog and other towns, through Burke, to about the location of the baseball field above Burke. We figured that, since walking was about the only means of transportation for the miners in the early days, the canyon was filled with numerous towns. A miner needed to live close to work, the post office, the store, and the saloon, thus the many small towns.

Returning down the canyon, we stopped in front of the token-using Combination (bar and barber shop) in Burke. Then we met Dick again across from the site of the Frisco mill. He related the story of the unrest between labor and management in the mining industry in and around Butte, Montana that resulted in a battle at this point. The Frisco mill was dynamited, starting the Coeur d'Alene mining war of 1892.



After finding a bit of lunch back in Wallace, checking out some antique stores, and seeing the Mining Museum, we headed out to Murray. By the time we arrived at the Murray cemetery, it was raining, but we stopped and looked anyway. Mike had made arrangements for us to visit Walt Almquist's Sprag Pole Inn Bar and Museum in Murray. After seeing much of Walt's museum - there were three token/woodnick/ chip displays, whiskey crocks, postcards, minerals, etc., etc. - Walt visited with us for a while and let us take some group photos with him. He turned 90 this year and is rightfully very proud of his museum. Here's a shot of John, Ron,

Dean, Greg, Walt, Mike, and Dan in Walt Almquist's museum.

We followed the creek down to Pritchard, stopping at Bob and Jean's Y-Bar for some refreshments. Inside, Bob asked about tokens, and they obliged by giving us sets of the plastic tokens they used. As the drink tokens were no longer used, they gave us a roll, fresh from the "mint" to divide, plus some of the older Pritchard Tavern plastic tokens they had.



Down the road a bit was the Y Tavern where we picked up a couple of classic lines. It struck my funny bone hard when Bob led us into the place, but had to detour around a very large dog asleep in the doorway. "Don't move on my account," Bob said, and the dog didn't. Inside, he asked about tokens and we were given some of the "Good For / One / Drink / Gisele & Vern" plastic tokens. In a modern-

day rendition of the counterstamp, "& Vern" had been blacked out using a marker pen. I don't remember whether the question to Gisele was "Do you have any that don't have Vern's name

marked out?" or "Where's Vern?" but her answer came through in no uncertain terms: "Vern ain't here!"

Since Bob was on a roll getting us tokens, we went around the dog and across the parking lot to Gloria's Steak House and Lodge in search of more. There, we only got some well-used wooden nickels for \$2 each. At Enaville we tried the "Snakepit" or Enaville Resort. The bartender there recognized us from the newspaper article and was sorry that his business did not use tokens. All in all, counting the Wallace tokens Dick had given us upon arrival, we each added several pieces to our collections.

Back at the Wallace Inn, we convened at 7 p.m. in the meeting room where we ordered dinner and continued our visiting and trading. Joining us there were Peter Larson and his wife, north Idaho 20th century post mark cataloger from Moscow. We enjoyed our time for several hours until we had to call it a night. All agreed that this was another great get-together. Special thanks to Dick Magnuson and Mike Fritz for sharing their extensive knowledge of the area, and to the Wallace Inn for the meeting room and facility.

Rexburg in 2000

Our next meeting will be in the Rexburg area, perhaps at Hibbard, so we can be sure a certain popular collector from there will attend. Dean Rasmussen will (once again) work on specifics, but for now reserve a spot on your calendars for July 14 and 15, 2000. If anyone knows of a conflict on that date, please let me know before we get locked in.

Diana Mine

In the October, 1997 issue of the **ITTN**, I stated that I was about 60% certain that the Diana Mines Company, Ltd. mavericks were from Diana, Idaho. Now I can up that figure to about 99% based on the fact that the 5¢ token Dan Lute had obtained came in a group of tokens from a person who had lived in Placerville. Plus, now he has gotten a second one, found on the ground in Placerville after being exposed by a washout this spring. The circumstantial evidence leads me to say that this token is indeed Diana, Idaho, although it may be argued that Boise would be an alternative, since the corporate offices were in Boise. The Company Store that used the tokens was almost certainly near the mine, so that will be the attribution.

The City Bakery Rises Again by Dan Lute

Over a period of the past eighteen months, the block bordered by South 12th, South 11th, River Street, and Grand Avenue in Boise has fallen to the wrath of the blades of dozers and graders one more time. This is not the first time the block has felt the shovels of progress and development. An early sketch entitled "Bird's Eye View of Boise City" done in 1887 shows this area to be mainly in orchards with one or two small houses in the southwest corner of the block. On December 22, 1890 a plat for this land was filed for development as the City Park Subdivision. Small turn of the century Victorian style homes began to appear, mostly modest two bedroom homes. By the 1960s this area had gotten quite run down and it became one of Boise's least desirable living locations. It was considered to be the slum area of Boise, even though it didn't compare to the slum areas of larger cities. In the 1970s houses began to be torn down and vacant lots began to appear once again. By the late 1980s the entire block was vacant and it stayed that way until the current development began in 1998.

During the 1970s as houses were torn down, the metal detecting community moved in to scoop up the remnants left by past generations. This process continued over the years long after the houses were all gone, an occasional detectorist would hit the area again. Each time a little more history was uncovered through the location of coins, tokens, and a variety of

artifacts. As far as I know no one kept records of what was found during those early years. As the old saying goes "an area is never completely worked out" and this was proven true again as the latest development started reshaping the area for the third time. I would estimate that between 200 and 300 hours were put in hunting the area during a 3-4 week window when earth-moving equipment was doing preliminary work on the site. The contractor was very generous and let us hunt evenings and weekends when his crews weren't working.

The days of earliest occupation were proven by the discovery of several coins dating from the 1850s and 60s. These were dug in the southwest corner near the small buildings seen in the 1887 view of Boise City. However, no tokens from that era were unearthed, sorry to say. In addition many turn of the century coins were found throughout the block and along with those, the following tokens were found:

25 CENTS / H / IN TRADE // (Blank)
THE PULLMAN / 729 / MAIN ST. / BOISE, IDAHO // GOOD FOR 12½ / INTRADE
OWL / CIGAR / STORE // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE
OVERLAND / BUFFET / BOISE, IDAHO // GOOD FOR / 12½ / IN TRADE
CITY / BAKERY / GARVER / & / BERRY // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / ONE LOAF
OLE KRAVIS / LIDGERWOOD N. D. // GOOD FOR / 10 [K co] ¢ / IN TRADE

Plus a claim check or identification tag from a gunsmith:

TREADWELL & CO. / GUN / SMITHS // 911.MAIN / ST. BOISE. / 24 [all incuse]

The two Boise tokens were fairly common and the City Bakery maverick was the only one that I felt I had a chance of finding enough information to get an attribution, so I decided to try and track down its proprietors and see if it could be attributed to Boise or wherever. It is aluminum, octagon, and measures 23mm.

Adolph Berry first appears in Boise in the 1899 Boise City Directory as a baker for Charles Caesar's Capital Bakery at 723 Main Street and is still listed as a baker at that bakery in the 1901-02 directory. In the 1902-03 directory the City Bakery and Grocers appears at 207 N. 8th Street with proprietors Henry C. Swanholm and Adolph Berry. Charles Caesar's Capital Bakery was still in business at 717 W. Main Street with Caesar as the sole proprietor. In the 1904 directory Henry C. Swanholm is listed as a miner and has apparently left the bakery business for good. His residence is shown at 1703 N. 9th Street.



Frank Garver first appears as a baker and confectioner in the 1901-02 Idaho State Gazetteer, but it doesn't give a business address. In the 1903 Merchants Rating Book, Frank is listed as a baker with a good credit rating, but again no business name or address. In the 1904 Boise City Directory he had become a clerk for the John L. Day Company which was a wholesale grocer located at the corner of 8th and Myrtle. In 1905 he appears to have entered the real estate business and seemed to stay at that profession for some time.

The listing in the 1904 Boise City Directory shows Tillotson & Frazer as the new proprietors of the City Bakery at 207 N. 8th Street. See the March, 1999 ITTN for the Tillotson story.



Although I could never come up with a listing for Garver and Berry together in the City Bakery business, it appears quite certain that their business partnership was short-lived somewhere between the latter part of 1902 and the first part of 1904. The business was obviously looked upon by the proprietors with enough hope and interest to issue the token. An interesting sideline to this investigation of the City Bakery was the involvement of Adolph

Berry in the business of Charles Ceasar's Capital Bakery. About two years ago during the construction of the bike path under Capitol Boulevard, a friend of mine dug a Capital Bakery token with Charles Ceasar as proprietor.

I would like to thank John and give him some of the credit for the information in this article since he helped me get started on the trail of the City Bakery.

Each of these three tokens is known in one example only. The two City Bakery pieces are very similar in design, both are 23mm octagon but the Swanholm and Berry piece is brass. The Capitol Bakery token is 26mm round aluminum.

Directory Exchange

Dean Rasmussen and I have been discussing a directory exchange. Many of us have copies of various business directories (Polk's City Directories, State Gazetteers, Dun & Bradstreets, telephone directories, etc.) that make great research tools. Many of them are too bulky or too fragile to copy or even handle, but for some we might be able to do multiple copies at one time and save wear and tear. Our thought is to make some sort of "Who Has What" list of things we are willing to copy. Then trade or sell copies to those who need them. The intent, of course, would be for everyone to contribute their share so we don't have someone just buying up copies of everyone else's libraries. Thoughts, anyone?

I have a number of references, but many of them are already copies, so I don't know how legible a second generation copy will be. Many of mine are the large format Dun & Bradstreet Idaho sections that become illegible when reduced, although reduction is not mandatory. Most of the City, County, and State directories are too bulky to copy without losing much of the material in the "valley" where the pages are bound.

Digital Camera

During the 1998 TAMS annual meeting in Portland, Paul Cunningham asked me to stop taking 35mm photos for the Maverick column I edit in the **TAMS Journal**. He wanted to mothball his darkroom and convert to digital photography. That was okay, but having no other way to make the photos, I started working with TAMS to gain the use of a digital camera. Paul had purchased one for his personal use, but I could not see spending the money to do the same. TAMS likewise seemed reluctant to provide me one as well, so I put my thinking cap on. My employer, U S WEST, matches cash gifts from employees to educational institutions, and I knew they made a contribution for volunteer hours worked, but it didn't "click" at first that the time I spent working on TAMS would qualify for this. Since TAMS is an educational, non-profit group under the IRS rules, I tallied up my time for the past year and submitted the forms.

In June, a check for \$600.00 arrived and I sent it to the TAMS Treasurer for deposit. Then I made a request for a digital camera, the Board of Governors approved the request, and I went

shopping. Just after returning from the Wallace trip I bought a Sony FD-83 and am beginning to learn how to run it. Since TAMS is allowing me to use it for my own needs on occasion, I may use it for illustrations in this newsletter, etc. I still plan to use 35mm black and white film for cataloging the Idaho tokens as that is a mature technology and I already have thousands of images in that medium.

Notes from Kendall

Kendall Ballard related a story about another token-issuing boxer in response to the Al Berro obituary in the last ITTN. He said that Lewis W. Potter of St. Anthony was very fond of fighting, either professionally or in the street. Local sages tell of him fighting Jack Dempsey and was beaten so badly that he walked in a slight stoop and had to cock his head to the side to look up. He was a large man, but very mild when not fighting. He had a younger brother who was a professional boxer and traveled all over the area to participate in boxing matches.

The St. Anthony newspaper of April 30, 1908, **The Teton Peak-Chronicle**, under the headline "*Elegant Buffet*" reported that "*Mein Host Potter of the Riverside Hotel, has fitted up a 'gentleman's nook' in his popular hostelry where good cheer pervades the atmosphere and everything is served in the most up-to-date fashion. The appointments of the place are elegant in the extreme. It is doubtful if a cozier corner can be found in the state. The Riverside, under Mr. Potter's management, has an enviable reputation among traveling men, and this addition to the house will increase its popularity still more.*"

Potter ran an ad in **The Teton Peak-Chronicle** ran for several issues in April, 1910 stating that he was selling the Riverside Hotel to H[erman] Kunkle of Idaho Falls. The reason? "*LET US EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY; FOR ON APRIL 20TH, ST. ANTHONY GOES DRY, DRY, DRY.*" Potter went on to say "*I now retire from the hotel business and on the 20th day of April, will close out my bar business, moving same to Dillon, Montana.*"

The token from his Idaho business probably dates from mid-1908. It is #STAN-25: RIVERSIDE / HOTEL / ST. ANTHONY, IDAHO. // GOOD FOR / 12 1¢2 / LOUIS W. POTTER 21mm rd. br. I know of only three examples. There is a token from Potter's Dillon, Montana bar, the Mint. Local option prohibition was later coming to Montana than to Idaho.

And, in closing, I will pose the question to you that Kendall posed to me: What is the meaning of "U. S. Separators" on the Filer tokens of the C. A. Love General Merchandise store? I think it has something to do with separating the wheat from the chaff as in the early [pre-combine] days when threshing machines were set up on farms at harvest time. Perhaps this was a brand of thresher? Anyone know or have an opinion?

Best regards,

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